

REMARKS

According to the Final Office Action, claims 1, 3 and 9 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by UK Patent Application No. GB2349536A to Shimizu et al. (hereinafter “Shimizu”).

Applicant wishes to thank the examiner for indicating allowable subject matter of claims 2 and 4-8. Since claims 2, 4 and 6 are independent, and claims 5, 7 and 8 depend from those claims, it is assumed that the Office Action meant to indicate that claims 2 and 4-8 are allowed, instead of containing allowable subject matter.

To expedite the prosecution of the application and without conceding any statements or waiving any arguments in the Final Office Action, claims 1, 3 and 9 are canceled without prejudice.

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the examiner’s correspondence and advance the prosecution of this case. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof is earnestly solicited.

Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested. It is believed that this amendment places the application in condition for allowance and, therefore, its entry is warranted per MPEP 706.07(e).

Please charge any additional fees associated with this application to Deposit Account No. 14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

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